

REMARKS

Claims 43-62 are pending in the present application. Claims 43-51 have been cancelled without prejudice, and new claims 63-71 have been added in this response. Claims 52-71 are now pending.

A restriction requirement was mailed August 29, 2003 indicating the present application includes claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Species I: wherein the implant is substantially cylindrical

Species II: wherein the implant has a pair of interconnected lobes.

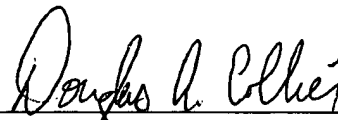
A further election to one of the following sub-species was also required:

Sub-species i: reducing the height of the implant by compression

Sub-species ii: reducing the height of the implant by dehydration.

Claim 54 was indicated to be generic. Applicant hereby elects species II and sub-species ii without traverse. Claims 52-54, 58-59 and 62 are readable on the elected species and sub-species. New claims 63-71 are also readable on the elected species and sub-species. Examination of the present application, including claims 52-71, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted:



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